The Bible & Daily Living

Paul's conversion

by WILLIAM L. TRIMYER
PAUL'S CONVERSION TO THE LORD
Lesson for September 2, 1984
Bible Study Passages: Acts 7:59-8:1; 9:3-5; Galatians 1:11-17
INTRODUCTION

The story of Paul's dramatic conversion to Christ is impressive. It stands out as a beacon of light in the Book of Acts. Paul's early persecution of the Christians did not mark him as a prime candidate to become an ardent supporter of the Way.

Perhaps we each know someone who became a follower of Christ against all odds. We may be one of those personal Sons people appear to be the most unlikely candidates to turn from sin and commit their lives to Jesus. The power of the Spirit to convict has changed many a heart.

It is a moving experience to witness the revolutionary change that takes place when people have an encounter with the living Lord. Conversion to Christ has a way of making us love those things we used to despise, and to despise those things we used to love.

When we turn and embrace Christ as Savior and Lord, we will discover that some profound changes take place in our life. We will continue to discover as we journey through life that a decision for Christ will have rippling affects many years into the future.

SAUL THE PERSECUTOR [Acts 7:59-8:1]

The seventh chapter of Acts records the stoning of Stephen. His death seemed to mark the beginning of intense persecution against the early Christian. Paul (Saul) became one of the more ardent enemies to the church. He was brutal in his treatment of Christians. It is probably very difficult for us to see Paul as he is portrayed in the opening chapters of Acts. The contrast between Saul the persecutor and Paul the Apostle is moving to say the least.

Think back to what your life was like before you turned and embraced Christ. You may not have in any way equaled Saul's violent attitude towards the Christian faith, but you may have made light of those who believed. Isn't it astounding how your life has changed since embracing Christ?

SAUL SEES THE LIGHT [Acts 9:3-5]

Stephen's manner of dying with forgiveness on his heart for his persecutors must have made a profound impression upon Saul. It only made him all the more determined to stamp out this strange new WAY.

I have observed that people will sometimes fight the hardest that which they desire most. Grieving families will occasionally grieve in isolation from one another rather than share their brokenness with each other.

Saul went to Damascus to extradite Christians as if they were common criminals. Instead of entering Damascus in a rage, he was led by the hand, blind and helpless. From that time on Saul, whose name was changed to Paul, began to do what Christ asked of him.

PAUL'S CONFESSION

Paul never forgot what he was like prior to his conversion. His memory served him in the years to follow when he began to teach and preach and travel in the name of Christ. He became extremely proud of his calling as God's ambassador. He boasted that his proclamation was not given to him by others, but through the revelation of Jesus Christ.

Confession is good for the soul! Our experience with Christ can be a powerful motivator in the lives of others. Answer the following questions:

1. Name someone who helped you come to know Christ in a personal way.
2. In what ways do we persecute the Christian cause in our day?
3. Discuss some of Paul's contributions to the mission of Christ.

Dr. Trimyer is Chaplain at Burnham Hospital in Champaign, Illinois (WLYP).

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Times-Virginian WORSHIP

Services at Catholic church

Services are held at Our Lady of Peace Catholic Church each Sunday at 11:30 a.m.

Weekday masses are celebrated each Friday at 12:15 p.m.

The pastor, The Rev. Richard Kirck, lives at Hurt, Va., at St. Victoria Parish, where he also pastors.

Anyone wishing to see a priest can call him at Hurt. The telephone number is 324-4924. He can be reached in Appomattox at 352-2183 from 10:30 a.m. to noon on Fridays.

Canaan Church news

The Golden Trumpeteers will be in concert on the first Sunday, September 2, 1984 at 7 p.m.

Regular business meeting will be held on Saturday night Sept. 8 at 8 p.m.

Regular worship services will be held the second Sunday, Sept. 9 at 11:30. The Senior Choir will render music. The Rev. C. I. Elliott is in charge of services.

Family Day will be held the fifth Sunday in September, Sept. 30, at 4:00. The John B. Hubbard Singers of Pilgram Baptist Church of Roanoke, Va. will be in concert.

Everyone is invited to attend these services.

Revival set at Gethsemane

Gethsemane Baptist Church, 160 Blue Ridge Street, Lynchburg, will hold a revival Aug. 29 through Sept. 1, with services beginning each evening at 7 p.m.

Guest speaker will be the Rev. Carl Knight of Eden, N.C. Special singing will be a part of each service. The public is invited.

On Sept. 2 there will be Homecoming at the Gethsemane Baptist Church with dinner served on the grounds.

A special afternoon service will begin at 2 p.m. The public is invited.

The Rev. Richard B. Baber is pastor of the church.

Galilee Baptist Church

Please come to our regular worship services this coming Sunday at 11 a.m. Church school begins at 9:45 a.m. The Senior Choir will render music.

All interested church singers and musicians are asked to join the Appomattox Choral Society. Our meeting will be held on Labor Day at 7:00 at the First Baptist Church. Our plans include the organization of a volunteer choir to produce tapes and albums. We wish for representatives from all churches in the county. Don't forget - Labor Day at 7 at First Baptist.

We are happy that Promise Land had a successful homecoming day.

Let us continue in prayer one for another and may God bless you all. Take some time out to care for the sick and elderly.

Obituaries

Mrs. Mozelle Whitted Forest

Mrs. Mozelle Whitted Forest of Route 1, Appomattox, died Sunday evening, August 19, 1984, at the residence of her sister. Her husband was the late Major Forest.

Born in Hillsboro, North Carolina on February 16, 1921, she was a daughter of the late Morris and Prelia Lelia Whitted. She was a member of Chestnut Grove Baptist Church.

She is survived by two daughters, Dorothy F. Hancock, Hillsboro, North Carolina; Mary Forest, Appomattox, Va.; one son, Willard Forest, Lynchburg, Va.; Twelve step-grandchildren; two step-mothers, Mrs. Josephine Twain of North Carolina; Mrs. Sarah Whitted, Appomattox, Va.; a sister, Mrs. Mary Louise Harvey, Appomattox, Va.; a brother, Wiley Whitted of North Carolina; one sister-in-law, Mrs. Kate Whitted of North Carolina; two aunts and a host of other relves and friends.

A funeral service was held Thursday, August 23 at 2 p.m. at Chestnut Grove Baptist Church in Appomattox. Interment was in the church cemetery.

West Funeral Home was in charge of the arrangements.

Melvin W. Kidd

Deacon Melvin W. Kidd of Rt. 1, Gladstone, died Wednesday, Aug. 22 in Lynchburg General Hospital.

Born in Nelson County, he was the son of the late William P. and Mamie J. Kidd. He was the husband of Mrs. Mable Glover Kidd. He was a member and deacon of Second Mineral Springs Baptist Church and a retired employee of the C&O Railroad.

In addition to his wife, he is survived by four sons, Percy W. Kidd and Allen D. Kidd, both of Gladstone, Melvin F. Kidd, Spout Spring, and James T. Kidd, Richmond; four daughters, Mrs. Ethel E. Braxton, Amherst, Mrs. Dorothea V. Megginson, Appomattox, and Ms. Mamie E. Kidd and Mrs. Jean A. Franklin, both of Gladstone; a brother, Thomas Kidd of Trenton, N.J.; three sisters, Mrs. Florence Macer of Baltimore, Md., Mrs. Gussie Murphy of Trenton, N.J., and Mrs. Atline Irving of Gladstone; one aunt, Mrs. Susie K. Johnston of Princeton, N.J.; four sons-in-law; three daughters-in-law; 47 grandchildren; 36 great-grandchildren; seven step-grandchildren; 15 stepgreat-grandchildren; five sisters-in-law; two brothers-in-law; and other relatives and friends.

Funeral services were held Sat., Aug. 25 at 2 p.m. from the Second Mineral Springs Baptist Church by the Rev. Robert McCray. Interment was in the church cemetery.

Wright Funeral Home, Amherst, was in charge of arrangements.

Samuel Griffin Parker

Samuel Griffin Parker, 90, Route 1, Lynchburg, died Tuesday Aug. 21, 1984, at his residence after a short illness. He was the husband of Viola Parker.

Born in Bedford County Oct. 16, 1893, he was the son of the late Ulysses Grant Parker and Laticia Campbell Parker. He was a member of Shiloh United Methodist Church, a retired carpenter with Norfolk & Western Railway and a member of Brotherhood of Railway Employees. He was preceded in death by a daughter, Dorothy Jane Parker.

In addition to his wife, he is survived by two sons, Leonard Griffin Parker and Buddy Dean Parker, both of Fort Lauderdale, Fla.; one sister, Mrs. C.C. Cralle of Appomattox; two grandchildren, Derek Allan Parker and Tiffany Parker, both of Fort Lauderdale, and several nieces and nephews.

A funeral service was conducted at 3 p.m. Friday at Shiloh United Methodist Church by the Rev. Joe T. Carson III. Interment was in the church cemetery.

Whitten Timberlake Chapel was in charge of arrangements.

Robert Ernest Wright

Robert Ernest Wright, 69, Route 1, Gladstone, died Sunday in Lynchburg General Hospital.

Born in Amherst County, he was the son of Mrs. Gertrude Proffitt Wright, Gladstone, and the late Robert David Wright. He was a member of St. James United Methodist Church and a retired car inspector for the C&O Railroad. He was a member of the Brotherhood of Railway Carmen.

In addition to his mother, he is survived by his wife, Ines Stewart Wright; four sons, Robert David Wright, Lynchburg, William Donald Wright, Winchester, Paul Dwight Wright of Tampa, Fla., and James A. Paisley, Gladstone; one daughter, Mrs. John Camden, Madison Heights; and eight grandchildren.

Funeral services were conducted Tuesday at 2 p.m. from St. James United Methodist Church by the Rev. Kenneth Carter and the Rev. Jeffery Worley. Interment was in Amherst Cemetery.

Drinkill Funeral Chapel was in charge of arrangements.

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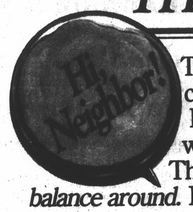

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